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RIFF (One Part)

February 25, 2013

Author/Genre Study

For my author for the RIFF assignment I chose Dr. Seuss. I checked out of the library the books *I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew, How the Grinch Stole Christmas,* and *You’re Only Old Once!.* I also took in to account the classic books that I am very familiar with, such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish, Green Eggs and Ham,* and *Oh, the Places You’ll Go.*

Content: What are common themes/settings/events/characters addressed?  
 Although each of these books are about completely different topics they are all very imaginative. They each are about something that could never actually happen in places that could never actually exist. Places such as “the Valley of Vung,” “solla Sollew,” “Who-ville” on a snowflake, and “Fotta Fa-zee.” The characters in these books are different fun creatures or animals and only sometimes is there a real human being (the Who’s) in the book. In each of the books the characters are posed with some sort of problem that is fixed by the end. I was hoping the library would have “Oh, The Places You’ll Go” in stock because I like how that book encourages that you will do great things in life and you can do anything you set out to do. I like how Dr. Seuss’s books teach a lesson without the reader even realizing they are being taught a lesson. He does this in the most fun and imaginative way he possibly can.

Organization: What are common ways of arranging the text?

In some of his easier books, Dr. Seuss uses very little words on each page, sometimes even just a sentence or two. However, in some of his more complex books he uses quite a bit of words on each page making the stories actually longer than you would expect them to be. He always has the text on top of illustrations that go along with the writing for that specific page.

Style: What are common ways of using language to create distinctive effects?

The most significant part of Dr. Seuss’ works is his incredible rhyming. All of these books tell a story while rhyming the entire time. The rhyming gives his writing its “fun and imaginative” effect. If his books did not rhyme the way they do students probably would not enjoy them as much and they would probably not be so incredibly popular all around the world. Another aspect of his writing is he manages to use dialogue throughout his rhymes. He has characters interacting with one another.